

Weekly Column for March 22, 2007

This week's column is all about the arts.

One week ago tonight, City Hall had the wonderful pleasure of hosting an arts reception for the Troy School District. This is an annual event that I always look forward to, mainly because it showcases some very impressive talents that our young children have.

As part of the reception, the kids are given ribbons for their hard work and innovative thinking. One of the best parts of my job is getting to meet the leaders of tomorrow, whether it is here in City Hall, or at their schools. You would not believe some of the questions these kids ask. They understand a lot more than we sometimes give them credit for.

I want to share a piece of a letter with you that was sent to me anonymously this week from the relative of one of the children who received an award last week. The woman wrote about the difficulties the child has been having of late, and expressed her concern for him. She ended by saying:

"I worry sometimes for him.

I am not a political person. This is the first time I've written a politician. I'm sure you hear often of things that are wrong with "the system." I just wanted to let you know that the ribbon you handed him meant a lot.

It mean a lot to a little boy who had a moment where there was no talk of divorce or problems at school. It meant a lot to me. This is something that's right with the system. Please continue with it.

With heartfelt thanks"

You are torn when you read something like that. You feel for the child, and hope everything works out all right for him. On the other hand, it provides a moment that makes this job the best in the world- improving someone's day, or in this case two people, without even trying. You can't beat that.

The artistic samples brought by the school this year stand out. The art will be up in City Hall for the next month, and I urge everyone to come in and take a look. You will truly be amazed.

And beginning next Friday, you will have two shows to look at. Downtown resident Ed Bruhn will hold an opening reception as part of Troy Night Out!

Ed was recently featured in the Troy Record for the pictures he takes of the City of Troy. His new show, "Troy- The City, The People" will be in City Hall beginning next Friday.

We are all very excited about this, as I believe the City of Troy is one of the most photogenic areas in the Capital District. The reception will run next Friday evening from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

If you are out and about, please stop by and enjoy Ed's work.

Spring is here, have a wonderful weekend.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy